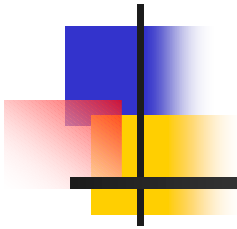


Child Care in Iowa



Presentation to
Home-Based Child Care
Committee
July 31, 2007



Child Care In Iowa

- General Overview
- Regulatory Information
- Child Care Assistance
- Quality Investment



What is Child Care?

Child Care is a community-based service, delivered through private and public entities to:

- Support parents and guardians attain or sustain employment;
- Provide, for the children in care, healthy and nurturing environments to promote healthy child development.



Need Landscape

- 477,564 - Children 0 – 12 (Woods & Poole, 2006)
- 70% of children under age 6 have all available parents in the workforce (Kids Count, 2007)
- 37% of children under age 6 are in family-based child care (Kids Count, 2007)
- 72% of children 6 – 12 have all available parents in the workforce (Kids Count, 2007)



Overarching Goals

- At a minimum, settings that meet health and safety standards through regulation standards
- Supporting low income families and their children through Child Care Assistance
- Promoting high quality experience for children through a voluntary Quality Rating System and quality improvement activities



Importance of the Goals

- Supporting working parents, with safe child care, is economic development
- Having the capacity to accommodate the number of young and school age children with parents or guardians working to be in safe and nurturing care
- Support for low-income working families so they can keep jobs or attend school
- High quality promotes positive social, developmental and cognitive growth



Role of Regulation

- To help make certain children's rights to have safe and healthy settings to protect them from harm.
- Positive, nurturing, healthy and responsive environments promote connections between neurons in promoting brain development while promoting healthy social and emotional growth.

(NAEYC : Licensing and Public Regulation of Early Childhood Programs)



Role of Regulation

Research shows:

Effective Regulatory Structures =
greater supply of quality programs
Quality Programs = Better Outcomes

- Cognitive functioning and intellectual development
- Language development
- Social development

(NAEYC : Licensing and Public Regulation of Early Childhood Programs)



Regulated Providers

There are 6,873 Regulated Providers in Iowa

- 1,500 Licensed Child Care Centers and Preschools
- 5,373 Child Development Homes

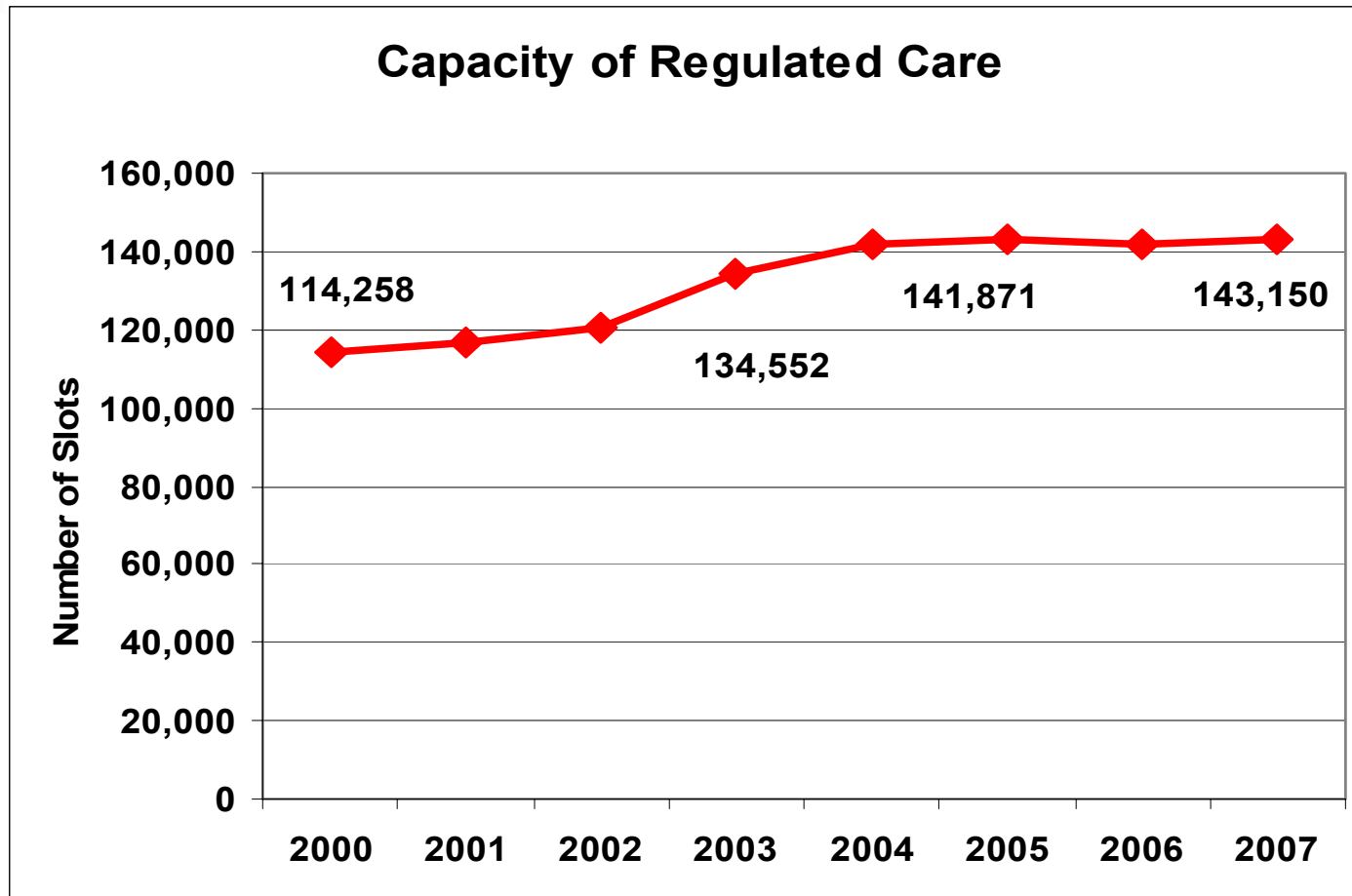


Regulated Capacity

Number of Children who can be in
regulated care at any one time:
143,150

- Licensed Child Care Centers and
Preschools: 86,735
- Child Development Homes: 56,268

Capacity Over Time





Definitions

“Child care” means the care, supervision, or guidance of a child (12 years of age or younger, or a person 13 years of age or older but younger than 19 years of age who has a developmental disability) by a person other than the child’s parent guardian, or custodian for periods of less than 24 hours per day per child on a regular basis.



Definitions

- **“Child care home”** means a person or program providing child care to five or fewer children at any one time that is not registered to provide child care.
- **“Child development home”** means a person or program registered that may provide child care to six or more children at any one time.



Definitions

- **“Provider”** means the adult (18 years or older) listed on the registration certificate for a child development home or the adult who is responsible and provides the child care in an unregistered child care home.
- **“Registration certificate”** means the written document issued by the department to publicly state that the provider has certified in writing compliance with the minimum requirements for registration of a child development home.



Definitions

“Spot-check” means a visit to a 20% sample of child development homes to determine if the homes are in compliance with the minimum requirements.



Definitions

- **“Registration”** means the process by which child care providers certify that they comply with rules adopted by the Department.
- A **“licensed”** center is one that provides care for periods of less than 24 hours to seven or more children in a place other than the children’s home and that is not a child development home.



License vs. Registered

Licensed

- Applies for Center-Based Care
- Licensing consultant will make one or more on-site visits
- Criminal and Child Abuse Checks
- Issue License
- At least one DHS unannounced visit each year

Registered

- Applies for Home-Based Care
- Self- Applied
- Criminal and Child Abuse Checks
- Certificate Issued
- Self Regulated
- 20% receive 'spot check'



Who Must Register?

Any provider who provides regular care to six or more children at any one time.



Registration Processes

- The Department establishes minimum requirements.
- The provider then self-certifies that the minimum requirements are and will be complied with in all areas of the child development home operation.
- In issuing a registration certificate, the Department is publicly stating that the provider has certified in writing that the provider meets those requirements.



Registration Processes

- Responsibility for making sure the requirements are met rests primarily with the provider, the parent, and the community



Registration Process

- Respond to request for child development home registration information by sending to applicant provider
- Complete child abuse registry check and criminal record check
- Evaluation of any criminal convictions or founded child abuse
- Notice of negative or adverse actions



Registration Process

- Complete certificate
- Computer entry
- Service Record System (SRS) entry
- Spot-check
- Renewal (Every 2 years)



Training Requirements

- Within first 3 months
 - Mandatory Reporter training
 - Certificate in infant and child first aid; includes rescue breathing (and maintain)
- Within the first 12 months
 - 12 hours of training; must include 2 hours of health and safety



Training Requirements

- In second year:
 - 12 hours of training; 6 hours must be received in a sponsored group setting, such as child care resource and referral agencies, Iowa State University extension, or community colleges.
 - ChildNet training series (available through their local child care resource and referral agency) may use those hours to fulfill a maximum of two years training requirements, not including first aid and mandatory reporter training.



Program Requirements

- May not use corporal punishment as a means of discipline
- Parent or guardian may visit the child at any time while in care
- Regular meals and snacks as defined by the USDA food program
- Maintain children files, including statement of health and immunizations, and parental consents for off-sight activities



Categories

Child development homes are divided into three categories: A, B, and C, based on the provider's education and experience. (These categories took effect December 1, 2002.)



Number of Children

- Category A = up to 6 preschool or younger children
- Category B = up to 8 preschool or younger children
- Category C = up to 12 preschool or younger children



Compliance Checks

- Annually conduct visits on 20% or more of each category
- Conduct complaint-based visits
 - Notify provider if “spot check” or complaint
- Use “Checklist” to conduct visit
 - Provide explanation if minimums not met and explore solutions



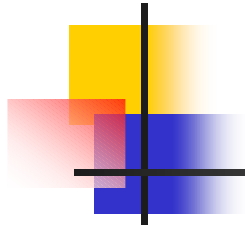
Adverse Actions

- Denial of Certificate of Registration
- Revocation of Registration
 - Cannot meet minimum requirements
 - Refuses to comply with minimum requirements
 - Includes age, criminal record or child abuse record, health and safety requirements



Adverse Actions

- Letter of non-compliance sent to provider
 - Impairs safety, health, sanitation, hygiene, comfort of well-being of child in care
- Follow-up visit made or attempted
- Notification of Decision by certified mail
 - Provider may appeal
- Parents notified of revocation
- Cannot own or operate child care for 12 months from date of revocation



Consultation

- Offered before and after registration
 - DHS registration staff
 - Child Care Resource and Referral
 - Community Empowerment funded services
 - ISU Extension
 - Red Cross
 - Other community resources

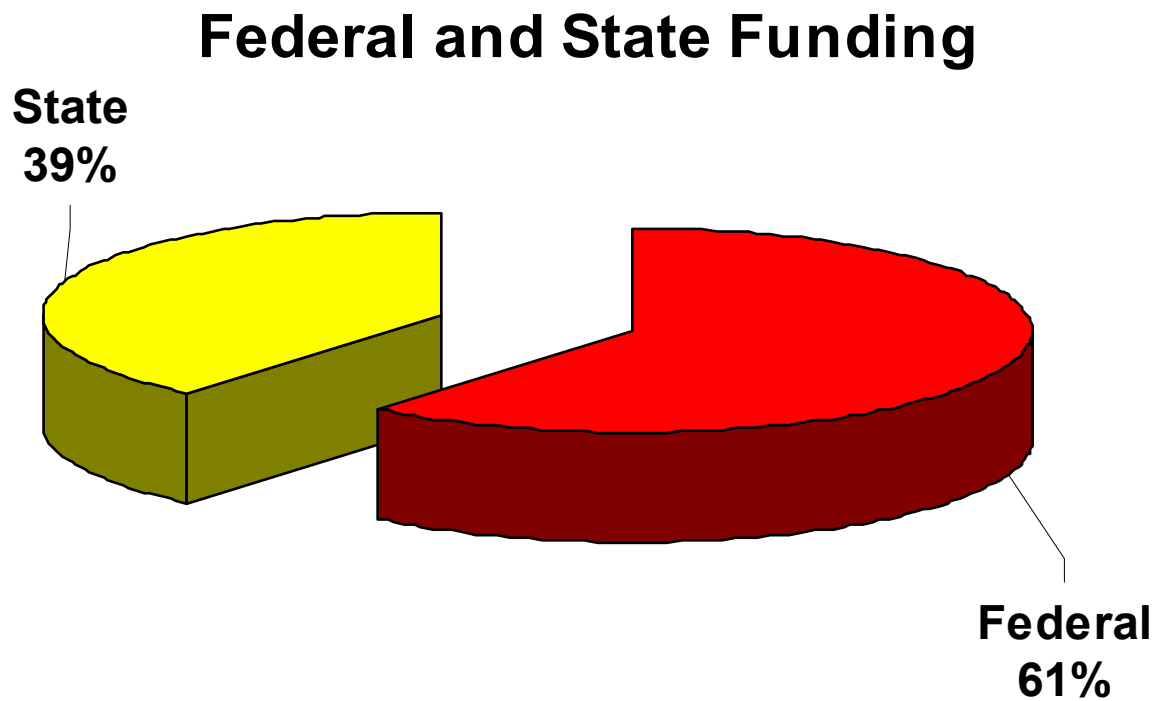


Incentives to Register

- Higher Child Care Assistance Rate
- Local Support (Community Empowerment)
- Home Consultants (Child Care Resource and Referral)
- Apply for a QRS rating
- T.E.A.C.H. Iowa scholarships
- Business training and kits



Funding





Funding

SFY '08 Funding Breakdown State

CCA appropriation:	\$ 37,875,701
Protective:	\$ 3,696,285
Child Care Tax Credit:	<u>\$ 2,600,000</u>
	\$44,161,986

Federal

CCDF:	\$ 41,571,213
TANF:	\$ 18,986,177
TANF-Empowerment:	<u>\$ 7,350,000</u>
	\$ 67,907,390

TOTAL:	\$ 112,079,376
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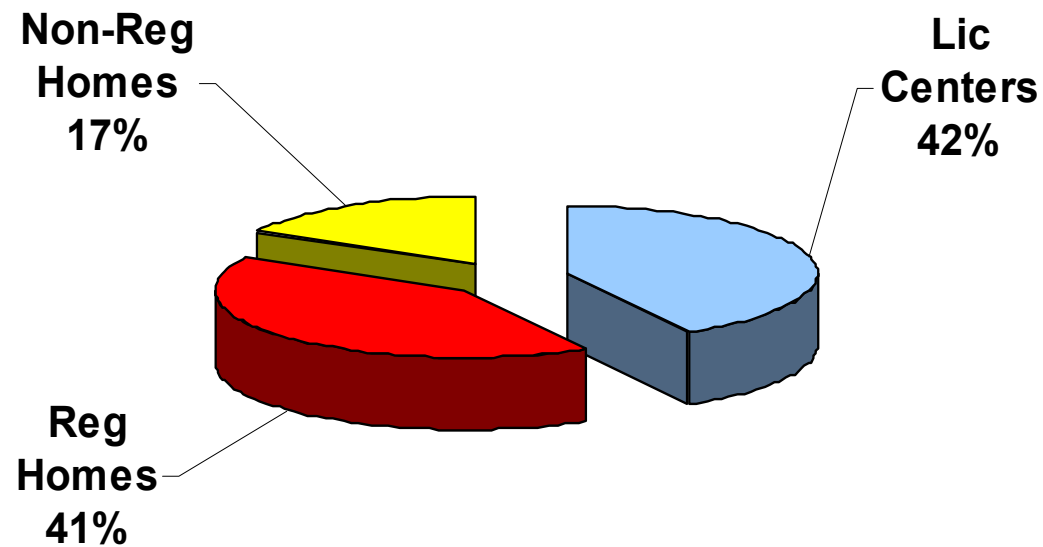
Child Care Assistance (CCA)

Who are the children?

- Children in families up to 145% FPL (200% for children with special needs)
- Parent works 28 hours a week or fulltime student
- In all, 70% receiving assistance due to parents working

Child Care Assistance (CCA)

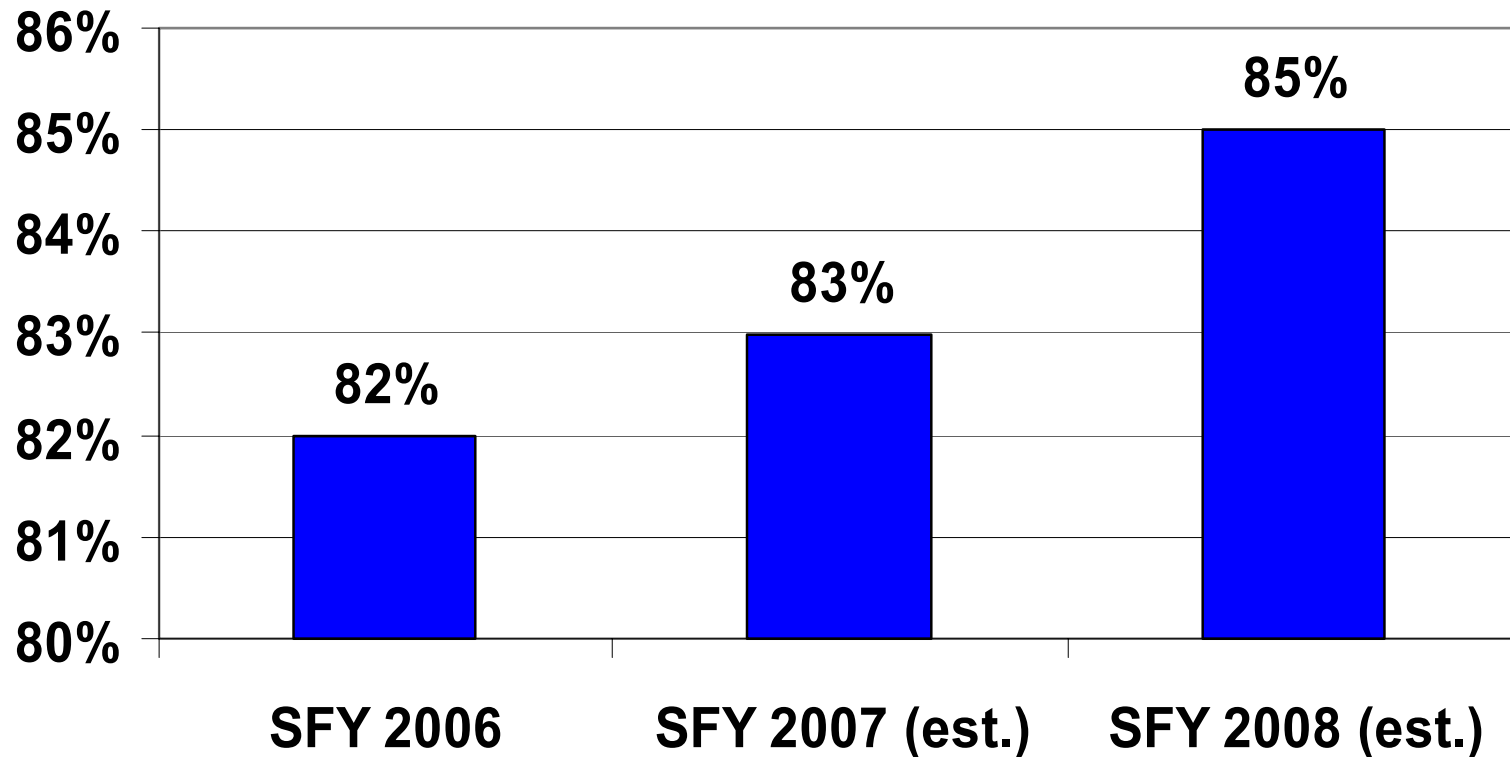
CCA Payment by Provider Type





Child Care Assistance (CCA)

Children Served in Regulated Care





CCA Eligibility

CCA eligibility is based on:

- Age of the child needing care
- Family size
- Family income
- Need for service



Age Requirements (CCA)

- Children must be under age 13, or
- Age 13 up to age 19 if the child has special needs, or
- Age 13 up to age 16 if there are special family circumstances that put the safety and well-being of the child at risk if left home alone. (must request exception to policy)



Gross Income Limits (CCA)

Family Size	Basic Care (145% FPL)		Special Needs (200% FPL)	
	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual
1 member	\$1,234	\$14,808	\$1,702	\$20,424
2 members	\$1,655	\$19,860	\$2,282	\$27,384
3 members	\$2,075	\$24,900	\$2,862	\$34,344
4 members	\$2,496	\$29,952	\$3,422	\$41,064
5 members	\$2,916	\$34,992	\$4,022	\$48,264



Income & Co-Pay (CCA)

- Both earned and unearned income is used to determine eligibility.
- Families applying for child care who are on FIP or because of a protective need do not have to meet the income guidelines, but must have a need for service.
- A family may be responsible for paying for part of their child care costs. This is called a co-pay.
- The family's co-pay is based on family size, gross income, and the number of children in care.
- Families receiving child care because they are FIP recipients or because of protective needs do not have a co-pay.



Co-Pay Examples (CCA)

- A family of two with one child needing care.
 - Gross monthly income of \$1,150.
 - Co-pay = \$0.20 per unit of care used
(approx \$8.00 per month)
-
- A family of four with two children needing care.
 - Gross monthly income of \$2,400.
 - Co-pay = \$3.45 per unit of care used
(approx \$138.00 per month)



Need For Service (CCA)

The family must have a **need for service** to be eligible for CCA. All parents in the household must meet at least one of the need requirements in its entirety.

Need for service includes:

- Full time academic or vocational training
- Employed 28 or more hours per week
- Child protection
- Medical absence or incapacity
- Seeking employment (limited to one 30-consecutive-day period in any 12-month period)
- FIP recipient participating in PROMISE JOBS activities



Provider Choice (CCA)

Families may choose any type of child care provider they wish. However, the provider chosen by the family must be approved by DHS before payments can be made.

To be “approved” the provider must be:

- A licensed center, or
- A registered child development home, or
- A non-registered child care home who has certified that they meet the minimum health and safety requirements and has passed the required criminal background and abuse checks.



Provider Agreement (CCA)

All providers must sign a CCA Provider Agreement before payment can be made to them on behalf of eligible children.

This Agreement outlines the terms and conditions for payment through the CCA program and certifies the reimbursement rates DHS will pay.



CCA Payments

- With the submission of an accurate billing, providers are remitted payment within 10 days
- When inaccurate billings are submitted:
 - If can be corrected by DHS payment is made, remittance is within 10 days and the corrections are sent
 - If it cannot be corrected, the provider is notified and they must make corrections and resubmit.



Quality Improvement Supports

- Healthy Child Care Iowa
- Child care “wraparound” grants
- T.E.A.CH. Iowa
- Child Care Business Practices Project
- Iowa’s Program for Infant and Toddler Caregivers (PITC)
- QRS grants
- Grants and training to school-age providers



Quality Rating System

- Began February 2006
- Voluntary Participation
- Thoughtfully Developed in Partnership:
 - State Child Care Advisory Council
 - Community Empowerment
 - Providers
 - Public Input

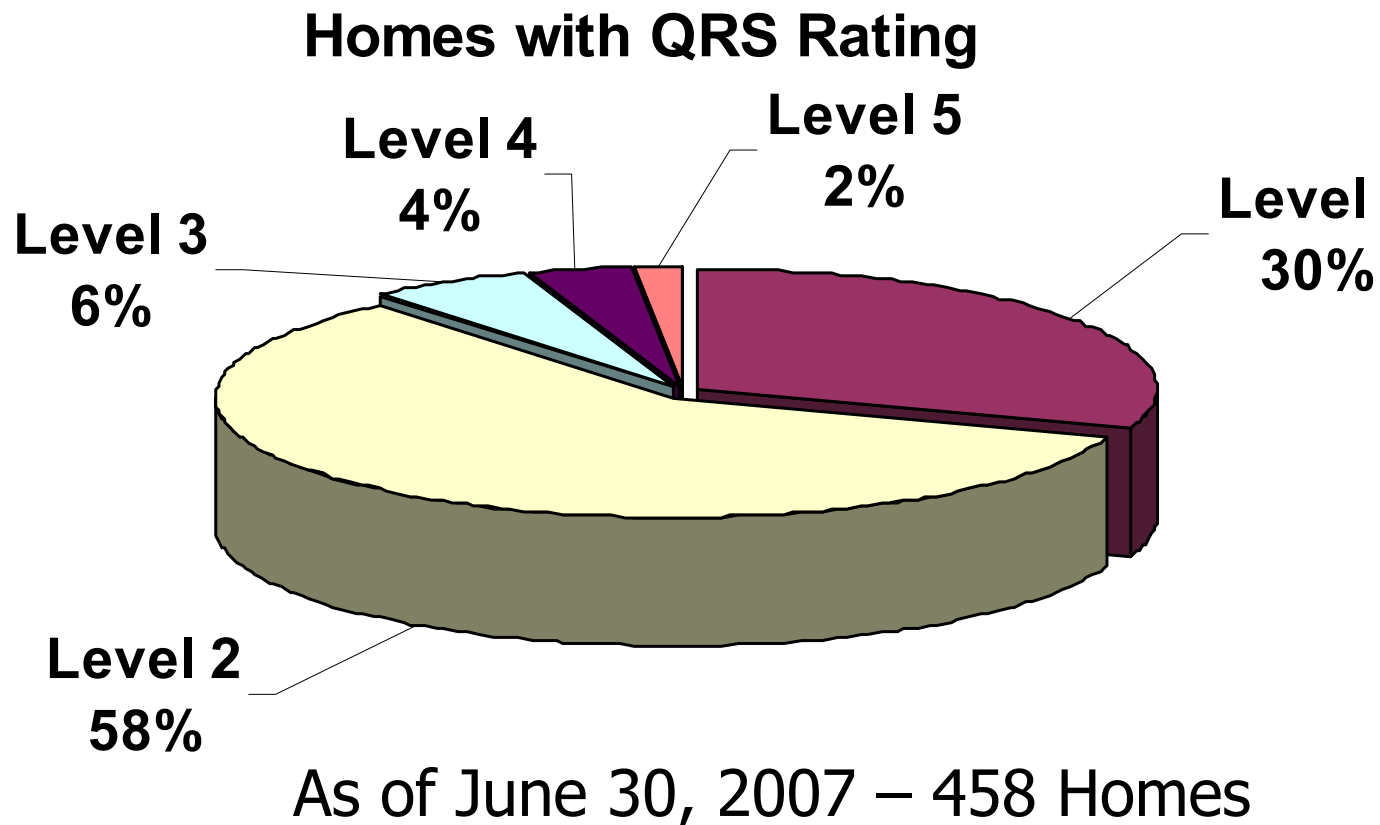


Quality Rating System

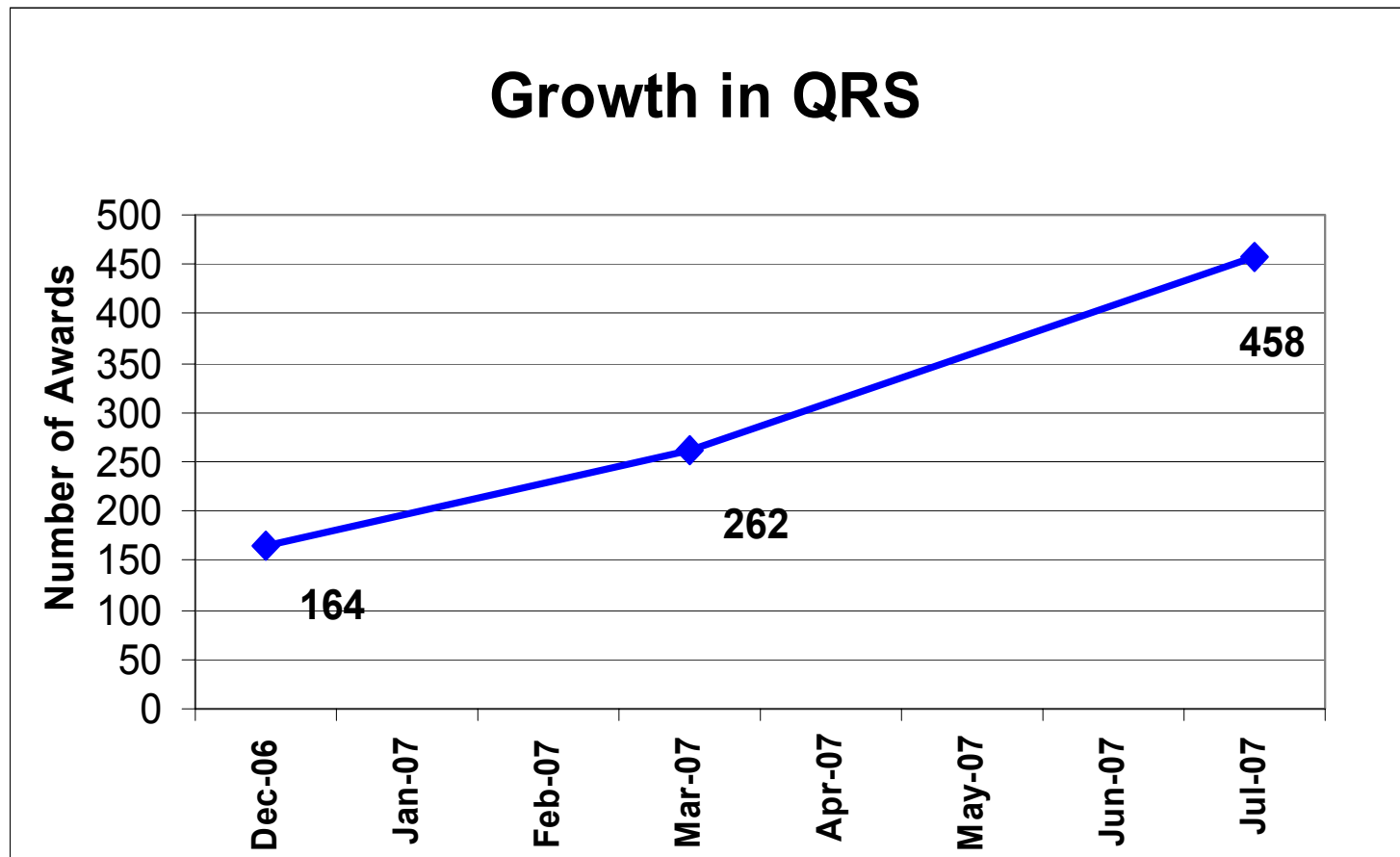
Five Level System and Pathways

- Levels 1 and 2 basic requirements
- Levels 3 -5 based on points:
 - Health and Safety
 - Environment
 - Family/community partnerships
 - Professional development
 - Leadership and Administration

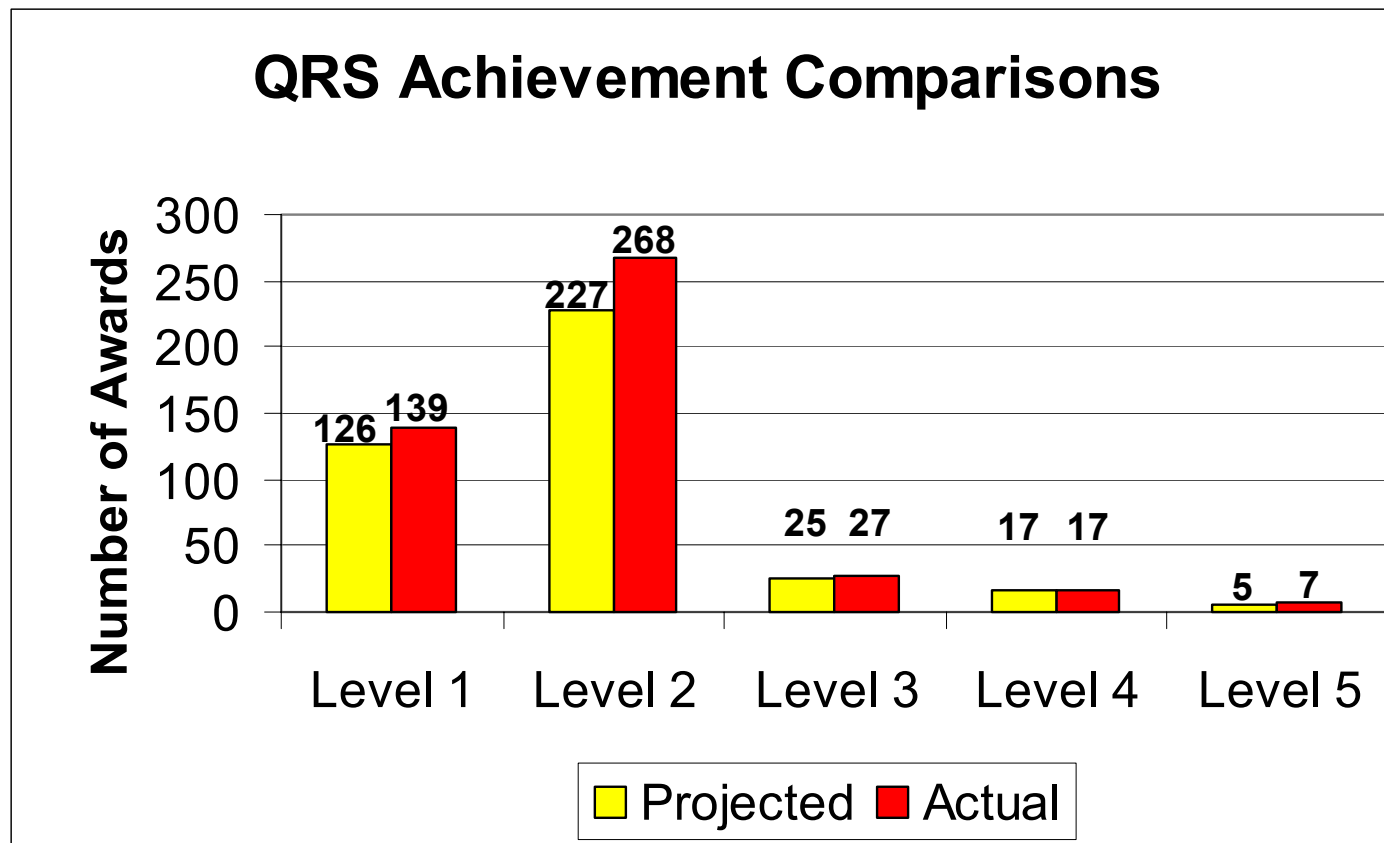
QRS Home Providers Awarded a Rating



QRS Growth Over time



QRS Exceeding Expectations





Summary

- At a minimum, 1,500 center-based and 5,400 home-based child care settings that meet health and safety standards
- Supporting over 41,000 children in low income families through Child Care Assistance
- Promoting high quality experience for children through QRS and Quality Improvement activities